

TRANSLATION

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>2003P14801WO</b>	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/EP2004/009963</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>07.09.2004</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>26.09.2003</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>G06K17/00, G06K9/64, Q00KQIQQ</b>		
Applicant <b>SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT</b>		

1.	This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.	
2.	This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.	
3.	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising: a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of <u>2</u> sheets, as follows: <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</div> b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s))  _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).	
4.	This report contains indications relating to the following items: <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</div>	

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/009963

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 2-8 as originally filed/furnished
- pages\* 1 received by this Authority on 14.07.2005 with letter of 13.07.2005
- pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.\* 1-4 received by this Authority on 14.07.2005 with letter of 13.07.2005
- nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/1 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/009963

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																					
1. Statement	<table><tbody><tr><td rowspan="2">Novelty (N)</td><td>Claims</td><td><u>1-4</u></td><td>YES</td></tr><tr><td>Claims</td><td></td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Inventive step (IS)</td><td>Claims</td><td><u>1-4</u></td><td>YES</td></tr><tr><td>Claims</td><td></td><td>NO</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Industrial applicability (IA)</td><td>Claims</td><td><u>1-4</u></td><td>YES</td></tr><tr><td>Claims</td><td></td><td>NO</td></tr></tbody></table>	Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES	Claims		NO	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES	Claims		NO	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES	Claims		NO
Novelty (N)	Claims		<u>1-4</u>	YES																		
	Claims		NO																			
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES																			
	Claims		NO																			
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-4</u>	YES																			
	Claims		NO																			
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)	<p>1 Reference is made to the following documents:</p> <p>D1: US-A-5 770 841 (MOED MICHAEL C ET AL) 23 June 1998 (1998-06-23)</p> <p>D2: US-B1-6 557 758 (MONICO DOMINICK L) 6 May 2003 (2003-05-06)</p> <p>2.1 Document D1 discloses (the references between parentheses refer to that document) a method for generating random test samples for optimising automatic optical readers for inscriptions on mail items (see column 2, lines 32 - 38), from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that in addition to the optical reading, the contents of wireless-readable electronic memory units located on or in the mail item are read and the data indicating the destination address is stored as destination address scheduled data together with the captured image of the surface of the mail item if the destination address information has been identified and read from a memory unit.</p> <p>2.2 The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT</p>																					

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	Article 33(2)).
3	The current invention can be considered to address the problem of implementing a method which allows reliable, accurate distribution of mail items even when the inscription on the mail item is unclear.
4.1	The solution to this problem as proposed in claim 1 of the present application involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the following reasons:
4.2	<p>In order to solve the problem mentioned under point 3 of reliably distributing mail items, document D1 discloses the reading of a barcode that contains the mail inscription in an encoded format as well as the mail inscription itself. The valid mail inscription ("destination address scheduled data") is determined from both sets of information and is stored in a database.</p> <p>In contrast, in the claimed method not only the valid mail inscription ("destination address scheduled data"), but also the corresponding, possibly unclear mail inscription, is stored in a database. Based on these database entries, the address reader system can be continuously adapted so as to be able to extract accurate information even from unclear mail inscriptions.</p> <p>Document D1 does not contain any information regarding the joint storage of both mail items in</p>

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PCT/EP2004/009963

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>a database. Nor does D1 suggest such a method step.</p>
4.3	<p>Document D2 shows a goods package provided with an RFID tag, by means of which the goods package is distributed to the destination address. The package also includes a mail inscription, which allows a mail distributor to monitor the mail delivery process.</p> <p>D2 does not indicate or suggest the storing of both sets of information, the RFID tag information and the mail inscription, in a common database.</p>
5	<p>Claims 2 - 4 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for novelty and inventive step.</p>